

How God speaks to us thru
Inspired Men Amos

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HOW GOD SPEAKS THRU INSPIRED MEN
AMOS.

INTRO& O.T. division into books of Law, Prophets,
and other writings.

Most important-the prophetic writings.

The prophets' attitude towards life, their belief that God has spoken to them and that in his name they can speak to men is what makes the prophetic writings so dominant in their influence upon all subsequent ages.

Not their fore-telling of the future, so much as their forth-telling the mind and will of God for the situation in which they and their people find themselves constitutes their essential message. It is this element of the prophetic writings that gives to all subsequent generations their moral inspiration and guidance.

The Perils of Israel at the time of Amos

1. The reigns of Uzziah and Jereboam 2.
The yoke of the Syrian oppression removed
The Rising Assyrian power not yet felt.
A time of security and prosperity.
2. The Israelites accepted the teachings of Moses that they were the chosen people of God and so could do just as they pleased.
3. The glory of the kingships of David and Solomon had turned their heads.
4. Religion had become divorced from morality.
Oppression of the common and poor people.
Elaborate rites and ritualistic observance.

This was the situation of Israel that confronted Amos the herdsman of Tekoa, the first of the great prophets who dared to speak scathingly of the evils of their day.

I. Amos the Man.

A shepherd and ~~win~~ dresser of sycamore fig trees.

Raised superior sheep whose wool and hides carried Amos from one market to another, enabling him to contact people and learn about world events.

Likewise as dresser of trees he went from one place to another.

The native of Judah, he prophesied in Israel.

Had gone to Bethel at the time of some great feast, perhaps to dispose of hides. There he began to speak to the throngs about his God-given vision pertaining to Israel and Judah.

The earlier prophetic impulse had turned professional and only spoke as dictated by the rulers.

Amos disclaims any connection with such prophets.

Amos brought prophecy back again into the line of direct inspiration and independent judgment.

II. Some outstanding teachings of his prophecy.

1. The opposition of true religion to false nationalism.

God is universal who hates evil and loves only the good and whose righteousness holds in the hollow of his justly ruling hand the fate not only of Israel but of every nation under heaven.

2. Privilege means Responsibility, not license.

3. Righteous living versus ritualistic worship.

No true religion apart from morality.

4. God is the story of all nations

"Are ye not as the Ethiopians unto me, O children of Israel? Have I not brought up Israel out of the land of Egypt? And the Philistines from Caphor, and the Syrians from Caphor?" *Amos 9:7* *Riv*

God is in every national story- all men and people are under his hand- the hand of universal righteousness.

Israel did not understand this teaching of Amos, nor ever afterwards did she understand. Jesus in his life- work of teaching and in his death on the cross tried to give the world this very truth, but only a few, a very few to date have grasped its significance. The rest of us in our religiousness are still living in the 8th Century B.C.